(a) the details of projects pending with Government for environmental clearance, as on 31st March, 2001;

(b) the details of financial amount allocated for protection of environment and forest during the last three years; and

(c) what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (c) Fifty nine development projects (25 Industrial, 11 Thermal Power, 4 River Valley, 6 Mining and 13 Infrastructural Development) were awaiting environmental clearance as on 31st March, 2001. To expedite decision on pending project proposals, continuous interaction is maintained with project authorities for early submission of requisite information and meetings of the Expert Committees are held at regular intervals.

(b) Funds allocated for protection of environment and forests during the last three years are as follows:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Amount
1998-99	704.09
1999-2000	700.00
2000-2001	850.00

International aid for increasing forest area

†1425. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special measures are being taken at present to increase forest area in country;

(b) whether any scheme, aided by various international agencies, is being implemented or is under consideration for this purpose; and

(c) in what manner World Bank aided U.P. Forestry Project is being bifurcated, after formation of Uttaranchal and what is the share

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

of Uttaranchal therein?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The State Governments and Union Territories undertake afforestation programmes through their own resources. The Central Government also provides assistance to the States for afforestation through Centrally sponsored schemes. The allocation under three major Centrally sponsored afforestation schemes during the 9th Plan is Rs. 462.5 crores for a physical coverage of over six lakh hectares.

(b) Ten forestry projects aided by international donor agencies with an estimated expenditure of Rs. 2800 crores are being implemented in various States. The main objectives of these projects are conservation and development of forest resources, improvement of productivity, enhancement of people's participation and improvement of the forest sector management. Further, assistance has been sought from international donor agencies for seventeen more projects involving an expenditure of over Rs. 13160 crores.

(c) The World Bank assisted U.P. Forestry Project is being bifurcated in the ratio of 53:47 between Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh. After bifurcation, the share of Uttaranchal is Rs. 999 million.

Ban on fishing and other activities on coast

1426. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain activities on the coast, which includes fisheries, have been prohibited for maintaining environmental balance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to amend the Law pertaining tc Coastal Regulation Zone to save the existing fisheries projects; anc

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHR T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Coastal Regulation Zon